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For immediate release

Dear Georgia War Veterans Home Families and Representatives:

COVID-19 screening was completed for all residents and employees in the Wood Building earlier this week.

Three of our residents and three employees at the Georgia War Veterans Home have a presumed positive diagnosis of COVID-19.

The residents are in isolation and are being cared for by staff who are following established local, state, and federal guidelines to stop the spread of the virus.

The employees are now self-quarantined at home and receiving medical treatment.

We realize this news is concerning and we want to reassure residents, staff, and family members that we are working closely with the Georgia Department of Public Health and the Georgia National Guard to prevent further spread of the disease.

The Georgia War Veterans Home in Milledgeville is working to complete additional environmental cleaning in areas where residents and employees interact with assistance of a team from the Georgia National Guard.

Both of Georgia's state veterans nursing homes have been closed to visitors and screening residents and employees for COVID-19 symptoms since March 13, 2020.

Staff will continue to complete twice daily infection control checks in each unit and will continue to monitor resident temperatures during every shift.

Our Georgia War Veterans Home staff will continue to pay close attention to whether they have any symptoms. As part of our continued screening process, all staff are screened upon arrival at work each day. This includes a temperature check and a series of questions checking for any symptoms.

Residents, staff, and family representatives were notified of the positive cases via email, phone calls, and distribution of this letter. We have informed employees of their possible exposure in the workplace but we will maintain confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Due to the sensitive and dynamic nature of this public health situation, we ask our partners in the media to please respect the privacy of our residents and families. We also ask that you please respect our staff at the home and the critical work that they are performing.

We know that this news is difficult to hear and want to reassure residents, families and staff that we are doing everything within our power to keep them safe and healthy.